

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 TAIPEI 02803 210642Z

14-11

ACTION ITF-05

INFO OCT-01 EA-06 ISO-00 SR-02 ORM-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01

SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 VO-03 SCA-01 AID-05 IO-10 IGA-01

SSO-00 /079 W

----- 118737

P R 210558Z MAY 75

FM AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5244

INFO CINCPACREP GUAM FOR SENIOR CIVIL COORDINATOR

C O N F I D E N T I A L TAIPEI 2803

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SREF, VS, TW

SUBJECT: EMERGENCY CONDITIONS ABOARD PANAMA FLAG MERCHANT
FREIGHTER "SINGAPORE"

REF: TAIPEI 2625

1. EMBASSY URGENTLY REQUESTS THAT SPECIAL CONSIDERATION BE GIVEN
TO 59 VIETNAMESE REFUGEES ABOARD PANAMANIAN REGISTRY
"SINGAPORE." GROUP WHICH INCLUDES 12 WOMEN, 17 CHILDREN
(12 UNDER THE AGE OF 5) AND COUPLE IN THEIR SEVENTIES,
HAS NOT BEEN PERMITTED ASHORE SINCE ARRIVAL IN
KAOHSIUNG MAY 12, AND CONDITIONS ARE DETERIORATING
RAPIDLY.

2. STAFDEL PARKER AND EMBOFF VISITED MERCHANT FREIGHTER
WHILE ON VISIT TO KAOHSIUNG MAY 20, AND BOTH SHOCKED BY
HARROWING, DANGEROUS, CONDITIONS EXISTING ON BOARD THIS
SHIP.

3. SIXTEEN OF THE REFUGEES ARE PRESENTLY CROWDED IN TWO
TINY STOREROOMS WITH REMAINING 43 ON DECK EXPOSED TO RAIN,
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 TAIPEI 02803 210642Z

HEAT, MOSQUITOES. CHILDREN ARE IN CONSTANT DANGER WITH

OPEN HOLES, CABLES, ROPES, ETC. CAPTAIN NOW WARNED EMBOFF OF HIS FEARS OF POTENTIALLY EXPLOSIVE SITUATION BECAUSE OF NUMBER OF ATTRACTIVE YOUNG WOMEN AMONG REFUGEES, PARTICULARLY IF SHIP IS FORCED TO PUT TO SEA AGAIN WITH REFUGEES STILL ABOARD. CREW IS RESTIVE, PATIENCE IS WEARING THIN, AND REFUGEES ARE BECOMING DESPERATE. AMONG GROUP IS AN EMPLOYEE OF THE U.S. CONSULATE GENERAL IN BIECZHOA, AND A SIGNIFICANT NUMBER WHOSE FAMILIES OR CLOSE RELATIVES WERE EARLIER EVACUATED TO GUAM BY U.S. AIRCRAFT.

4. FOLLOWING USG GUIDELINES, GROC HAS ANNOUNCED POLICY OF ACCEPTING REFUGEES FROM CHINESE FLAG VESSELS ONLY. THE SINGAPORE IS OWNED BY THE LI TONG SHIPPING COMPANY IN HONG KONG AND REGISTERED IN PANAMA. SHIP NORMALLY TRAVELS BETWEEN BANGKOK, HONG KONG, AND TAIWAN, NONE OF

WHICH IS LIKELY TO ACCEPT THESE REFUGEES WHO FORESEE A "FLYING DUTCHMAN" EXISTENCE IF SPECIAL ARRANGEMENTS ARE NOT MADE. IMMINENT DEPARTURE THIS SHIP MAKES REQUEST URGENT.

5. ACTION REQUESTED: EMBASSY BELIEVES GROC WOULD TAKE REFUGEES OFF FREIGHTER SINGAPORE PLACING THEM IN KAO-STMUNG CAMP ON TEMPORARY BASIS IF USG COULD PROVIDE ASSURANCE THAT THEY WOULD BE MOVED TO GUAM OR OTHERWISE PUT IN U.S. PIPELINE WHEN CONDITIONS PERMIT. ADVISE.
POPPL

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: REFUGEE RESETTLEMENT, POLICIES, MARINE TRANSPORTATION, REFUGEE RELIEF
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 21 MAY 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: greeneet
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975TAIPEI02803
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750177-1205
From: TAIPEI
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750529/aaaabami.tel
Line Count: 87
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION ITF
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 TAIPEI 2625
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: greeneet
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 15 JUL 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <15 JUL 2003 by KelleyW0>; APPROVED <14 NOV 2003 by greeneet>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: EMERGENCY CONDITIONS ABOARD PANAMA FLAG MERCHANT FREIGHTER "SINGAPORE"
TAGS: SREF, VS, TW
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006